

STUDENT-RANKING PROPOSAL Virginia Beach might become the first division in South Hampton Roads to move away from ranking students numerically. At a board workshop this week, division leaders presented a new model that would put top students into categories, instead.

No more No.1?



summa cum laude

Beach schools are weighing replacing class rankings with groups. Students who achieve a grade point average of 4.0 or better would be considered summa cum laude.

magna cum laude

This category includes students who achieve a grade point average of 3.76 to 3.99.

cum laude

This category is for students who achieve a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.75.

honor graduates

Those with GPAs from 3.0 to 3.49 would be honor graduates.

VIRGINIA BEACH SCHOOLS WILL EXTEND SCHOOL DAY 15 MINUTES TO MAKE UP DAYS LOST TO SNOW. **PAGE 7**

By Mike Connors
The Virginian-Pilot

VIRGINIA BEACH
AS PRINCIPAL of Ocean Lakes High School, Claire Le Blanc hears stories of students cheating to get an edge on their peers. Cox High School principal Mike Kelly knows of kids rooting for other students to fail.

The two leaders suspect that a class ranking system used by schools across the country plays a role. They said they're happy that Virginia Beach has introduced an alternative, which could become policy within the next few months.

"For our high schools, it is worth considering whether class rank does more harm than good," LeBlanc said.

Virginia Beach ranks students numerically – the best GPA is first, next best is second, and so on down the line.

Last summer, the School Board asked division leaders to bring them options for potentially changing that system. High school principals then

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After regional jail deaths, state lawmakers look at funding more staff

General Assembly

To find solutions to issues that arose during the latest election, lawmakers form panel. **PAGE 3**

By Rebecca Carballo
For The Virginian-Pilot

As an officer passed out food trays on the other side of the cell block, Jonathan Ellis was tying a sheet to the end of his bedpost.

By the time the officer took him down, it was too late. Ellis had killed himself.

On that December evening, the officer was the only person working the cell block at the Hampton Roads Regional Jail in Portsmouth. No one else was there to help.

Jail Superintendent Ronaldo Myers said the suicide was the result of understaffing.

Typically, he said, a single officer watches up to 100 inmates while on duty.

"Suicide rates are going to increase if you don't have the staff to keep an eye on people," Myers said in an interview.

Staffing shortages are one of several reasons the jail needs more funding, he said. The facil-

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Trump plan would cut legal immigration, build the wall

The offer: Citizenship for 1.8 million "dreamers," money for security



DAMIAN DOVARGANES | THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

immigration

The administration said it would open the door to citizenship for up to 1.8 million people in the DACA program, but restrict legal immigration by as much as 50 percent, according to one advocacy group.



AP FILE PHOTO

border wall

The proposal calls for \$25 billion for border security, including a wall along the southwest border, and an end to the diversity lottery program that lets immigrants be awarded green cards.

By Anita Kumar and Franco Ordonez
McClatchy Washington Bureau

THE TRUMP administration presented a immigration plan Thursday that would allow 1.8 million young immigrants brought to the country illegally by their parents a chance at citizenship, but which would also gut the legal immigration system.

The plan, first discussed a day before by President Donald Trump in speaking with reporters, would protect not only those who had received protections under an Obama-era deferred action program, known as DACA, but hundreds of thousands more who never got to apply or failed to renew their status when it expired.

Perhaps most significantly, the plan also would overhaul a key principle of U.S. immigration policy aimed at keeping families together.

As additional bits of the plan began to leak out Thursday, Democrats and advocates geared up to fight any effort to reduce current policies that reunite family members abroad with those already

See IMMIGRATION, PAGE 6



Film festival closes with "Animal House," featuring the late Stephen Furst.

Pulse

TRUMP SOUGHT IN JUNE TO FIRE MUELLER

The plan to dismiss the head of the Russian probe faded after the president's top legal adviser threatened to quit.

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RETOOLING OF UTILITY REGULATION HITS SNAG

The governor says he wants the state to have more oversight of power companies than provided in a bill.

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Oldest known fossil of a human found in coastal Israel cave.

Page 4

sunny

High near 50.
Low near 30.

Details on the back page of Sports

For Va. Beach, some population growth just isn't enough to keep up



Prince William County now state's second-largest locality

From Pilot and wire reports

A Census Bureau estimate showed anew Thursday that Northern Virginia and its Washington suburbs have become the dominant population center in the state, and that even Virginia Beach is falling behind.

Prince William County passed Virginia Beach to become the second-most-populous jurisdiction in Virginia, according to a new analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data by the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service. Three out of four of the state's largest jurisdictions are now in Northern Virginia.

See POPULATION, PAGE 6

Dense housing sprawls across Chantilly in Prince William County in this Google maps image. Prince William County passed Virginia Beach to become the second-most-populous jurisdiction in Virginia, according to a new analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data.



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